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Summative Reflection
Ms. Lobitz, period 4
AP Language & Composition Research Project

Comment on each of the technologies we implemented, making sure to touch upon ease of use, quality of information gathered, and potential for further use:

PLE: Though a great concept, I found that I did not use my PLE often. I put the websites that I tended to use for research and my accounts on it, but it seemed much easier to just type in the websites address. It was easy to use, but I do not think it is a necessary aspect of the project.

RSS feed: The RSS feed was very beneficial. It was very easy to use and helped us find various articles for our research. It was much easier to use the RSS than searching for articles about our topic because everything was recent and credible, depending on the website the RSS was from. The information that I gathered from a New York Times RSS feed on horse racing was very credible, helpful, and thorough. I would recommend using RSS feeds in the future.

Scoop It: For the most part, Scoop It was helpful. However, it was difficult to understand how to use it. At first, I did not “rescoop” anything, but instead just followed certain topics and groups. I never figured out how to “scoop” articles from other websites. Because it was difficult to use, I struggled to capture its potential. Some of the information I found was “rescoped” from blogs and not-so-credible websites, so I did not use it for much. I would use it for future projects, but I do not think its use should be emphasized as much as the use of RSS feeds.

Videos/Interviews/Documentaries: Because the person we interviewed did not respond in time, we were excused from the interview portion. Because we were able to successfully create our project without an interview, I think that interviews should be optional. Still, I think that it is beneficial to the project because students get a chance to understand their topic from a view that may vary from their own. In our Prezi, we also used reform/campaign videos for our topic. I think that these would very helpful to our project, and they were easy to find as well.

Audios: We did not use audios in our project, since we did not do a voice thread. We did use videos in our project, as previously mentioned, and these were very helpful. Our research relied mostly on articles, so I do not think audios are necessary.

Wikispace: I really enjoyed the Wikispace. It was a great way to keep everyone organized and focused. I think it was also helpful because people were able to look at the work of some other students if they were confused. The Wikispace was very easy to use and I would definitely recommend it for future use.

Wordpress: I think the blogging was very important to this project. It forced students to stay on task and think about whether or not their progress was meaningful to the project. I also enjoyed how Ms. Lobitz and Ms. Host were able to comment on our blogs. This was very convenient and helpful. The Wordpress blogs were also very easy to use and understand.

Prezi: I really enjoyed using the Prezi. It is difficult to learn to use at first, but many students learn to use it sometime during their junior year. After using it once, it becomes much easier to navigate. I think Prezi is able to craft presentations that look much more mature and professional than power points. I enjoyed the option of using Prezi, Voice Thread, or writing a paper because people that learned in different ways were able to do the project based on their own preferences and interests. I would definitely use this in the future.

Voice Thread: We did not use voice thread on our project.

To what extend did this type of learning (completely student-centered with teach as facilitator rather than focus; self-guided; choice-based) result in a meaningful learning experience for you? Please explain.

I think this type of learning process was very important and beneficial. Because it was so student-centered, students were able to explore their topic in various ways. Similarly, this type of learning was meaningful because the freedom allowed students to enjoy their research more. Also, because students were given this independence, they were able to work around a schedule that worked for them, which made this project a lot less stressful than it could have been.

Remember that we fully understand the limitations and stress that came as a result of trying to do this project in so little time at the end of the year. We appreciate your willingness and your enthusiasm, and we even appreciate your candor in evaluating the process. That being said, what suggestions can you make that will help us refine this assignment for future students? What did you like best? What did you not like?

My favorite aspect of the project was the independence. The aspect of the project that I did not enjoy as much as the independence was the amount of time spent learning the technology and the amount of this technology used. We used so much technology that it was overwhelming. This also took away from the time that we could have used to research. While I enjoyed the Wordpress and Wikispace, other websites were not as helpful and necessary, including the PLE and Scoop It. Technology was important to our project and made work more convenient, but I do not think we needed to use as many types of technology as we did. For further years, I would suggest limiting the amount of technology required, but allowing students to use other technology if they wanted to. I would also suggest making other requirements options, such as videos/interviews and audio.